

Group Memory  
Landscape Architecture Contractor Forum  
March 11, 2010  
Northern California Meeting

**Upshot**

These are the assignments made at the meeting.

Ref. #	Who	What	Due
1	Jack	Provide Contractors with list of Major Damage Coordinators.	6/2010
2	Greg	Provide Contractors easy access to current and proposed project lists - advertised projects, emergency projects, roadside rest areas, etc.	3/2010
3	Greg	Develop Caltrans Construction Manual guidance to help ensure the pre-measurement of erosion control areas as well as inspector availability for the adding of erosion control materials to the hydroseeding rig tank.	9/2010
4	Greg	Notify and collect 2010 Plain Language feedback from the Contractors when the draft version is complete this year.	9/2010
5	Jack & Greg	Meet with Compost Producers to verify compost specified in the 2010 specifications is commercially available.	5/2010

1. Expectations and opening
  1. 1. Budget update
  1. 2. New Specs, Plans
  1. 3. Info on Caltrans work
  1. 4. (CT) Update the contact information; feedback on how we can improve business practices.
  1. 5. See who is still in business.
  1. 6. Contract specifications that work for CT and industry.
  1. 7. Insight on the future – the crystal ball look.
  1. 8. Changes in specs
  1. 9. Funding
  1. 10. (CT) hear contractor issues on the 2010 Spec re-write.
  1. 11. (CT) take information back to the districts (So Cal)

1. 12. Caltrans new construction permit conditions.
1. 13. Economic Forecast.
1. 14. (CT) Get input on the specs, and share information with you.
2. Trends and Issues:
  2. 1. We have a four year plan renewed every other year, and a ten year plan. There is a massive amount of unfunded need, and competition for funding is tight. Funding is decreasing for the next few years.
  2. 2. Information will be available on the web site –
  2. 3. No new projects being added in 2010.
  2. 4. Bid savings due to competition and competitive bids resulted in 400 million savings. We will work between now and August to get projects out quickly. Stimulus funds did not add staff to get more work out. There will be some “minor B” landscape projects and erosion control work.
  2. 5. Funding situation is dynamic and changes from day to day.
3. Past action items review
  3. 1. Erosion control –
    3. 1. 1. There are alternatives to straw.
    3. 1. 2. Rice straw has a lot of dirt and dust in the mix – there are alternatives that do not have so much dust and dirt in them. Native straw grasses do not have this problem to the same extent as rice straw.
  3. 2. Erosion Control – Seed
    3. 2. 1. Need to keep pushing on the seed suppliers to supply the bags.
4. Open Forum
  4. 1. Clarify roadside clearing – area? What we are supposed to do in that area?
  4. 2. Duff – vs. mulch vs ground material not bid?
  4. 3. Jack and Rich and Greg will hash out the new spec for compost.
  4. 4. Continue to work with roadside clearing, maintain existing, and plant establishment limits. (Bill Anderson to work with contractors to improve the language.) Issue: We have existing planting and in that area, we want the existing maintained, etc. etc... There is overlap. CT needs to identify the existing plants in the field – See Chris Johnson.
  4. 5. Water meter spec: Issues with how this is administered between the contractor, the water agency and CT.
  4. 6. Put language referring to the Prompt Payment law in the contract documents to encourage/require the general contractors to keep the money moving to the subs.
5. 2010 Plans and Specs
  5. 1. Caltrans will be sending out draft specs and would like your comments on the draft.

5. 2. Time and materials – there are three components – labor, materials and equipment. Where do we put our labor? How do we bid our labor?
5. 3. The proposal for the new Standard Spec will cost a lot to have us figure out what the cost per square foot is...
5. 4. Contractors prefer payment by area.
5. 5. What happens when the inspector is not there? How can we verify the material?
5. 6. Caltrans is trying to do away with the cost breakdown.
5. 7. Should we use a performance spec, not a method spec?
6. 2010 General Construction Permit
  6. 1. Jack B will get the memo from the Chief Engineer on the General Construction Permit and send it out.
7. Open Forum discussion
  7. 1. Watering water management plan: How will we address drought /watering – What day will we water? Day watering? Watering at night? CT and Contractors need to get together to address those issues. Reclaimed Water purveyors want the same rules ... We need a task force to address this collaboratively. How do we manage the mandates from the local /water agencies?
    7. 1. 1. Task force.
    7. 1. 2. We need a drought strategy in San Diego County, for example.